

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  6331.00011	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No.  PCT/US 03/26113	International filing date (day/month/year)  20/08/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)  23/08/2002
Applicant  VENDINGDATA CORPORATION		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

**1. Basis of the report**

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the International search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

**4. With regard to the title,**

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

**5. With regard to the abstract,**

- ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- ☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

**6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.**

- ☒ as suggested by the applicant.
- ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.
- 1 ☐ None of the figures.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 03/26113

## Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

An automatic card shuffler includes a card input unit (10), card ejection unit (30), card separation and delivery unit (70) and card collection unit (110). A card ejection unit ejects cards in a singular fashion from a stack of cards placed into the input unit. The cards are ejected to a stop arm (57) maintaining the entrance to the card separation unit. Upon processor command, the stop arm raises to allow a plurality of cards to pass under to the card separation and delivery unit (70). A series of rotating belts and rollers (34A, 4B) act to separate the cards and propel them individually to the collection unit. A floating gate (74) slightly forward of the stop arm dictates that a minimum number of cards are managed simultaneously. The shuffler is controlled by a processing unit in communication with multiple internal sensors. An audio system communicates voice outputs regarding shuffler malfunctions and instructions to an operator.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 A63F1/10 A63F1/12 A63F1/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A63F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 275 411 A (BREEDING JOHN G) 4 January 1994 (1994-01-04) column 4, line 52 -column 6, line 44	1-4, 13-17
A	figure 3	25-31
X	US 4 072 304 A (BROWN MICHAEL A ET AL) 7 February 1978 (1978-02-07) column 4, line 33 -column 5, line 35; figures 1-3,5	1,2
A	column 9, line 47-65	5
X	US 2 755 090 A (ALDRICH LOYD I) 17 July 1956 (1956-07-17) the whole document	1,2
A	US 5 584 483 A (SINES RANDY D ET AL) 17 December 1996 (1996-12-17) the whole document	1-31



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

\*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*G\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

29/12/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Brumme, I

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5275411	A	04-01-1994	NONE	
US 4072304	A	07-02-1978	CA 1072657 A1 DE 2645842 A1 GB 1542670 A JP 52086817 A	26-02-1980 21-04-1977 21-03-1979 19-07-1977
US 2755090	A	17-07-1956	NONE	
US 5584483	A	17-12-1996	US 5676372 A AU 684937 B2 AU 2293695 A AU 694078 B2 AU 3323097 A CA 2188137 A1 EP 0787025 A1 WO 9528210 A1 US 6299167 B1 US 6019368 A	14-10-1997 08-01-1998 10-11-1995 09-07-1998 23-10-1997 26-10-1995 06-08-1997 26-10-1995 09-10-2001 01-02-2000